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(54) Hair-treatment compositions based on nonlonic, weakly anionic or amphoteric surface-active agents and heteropolysaccharides

(57) The invention relates to a cosmetic composition for hair containing, in a cosmetically acceptable medium, at

a) a water-soluble polyglycerolated nonionic surface agent, or

b) a weakly anionic surface-active agent from the group of polyalkoxycarboxylates, or

c) an amphoteric surface-active agent from the group of the acylated derivatives of mono- or dicarboxylic, optionally cyclic, diamino acids, or

d) their mixtures,

and at least one water-soluble heteropolysaccharide, which may be a xanthan gum or the product of fermentation of sugars by microorganisms.

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SPECIFICATION

Cosmetic compositions based on nonionic, weakly anionic or amphoteric surface-active agents and heteropolysaccharides

The present invention relates to cosmetic compositions intended particularly to be applied on hair, based on surfactants and heteropolysaccharides.

Cosmetic compositions such as shampoos containing nonionic, weakly anionic or amphoteric surfactants are well known in the field of cosmetics and offer many advantages when compared to the compositions containing strongly anionic surfactants; they have, in particular, a better skin tolerance.

A "weakly anionic surfactant", as used herein, means a surfactant incorporating, in its hydrophilic chain, a carboxylic acid function and other hydrosolubilizing groups which gives it significant solubility in water in an acidic medium; in such a medium, they show a behaviour which is similar to that of nonionic surfactants. The hydrosolubilizing groups are generally "polyethoxy" concatenations.

Weakly anionic surface-active agents which are of interest are polyalkoxycarboxylates.

Nonionic surface-active agents which are especially interesting because of their compatibility with the scalp and with hair, and particularly for persons with seborrhea problems, are water-soluble polyglycerolated surface-active agents, and particularly the condensation products of a monoalcohol, an α-diol, an alkylphenol, an amide or a diglycolamide with glycidol or a glycidol precursor, which are described in French Patent 2,091,516, as well as the compounds described in French Patents 1,477,048 and 2,328,763.

Amphoteric surface-active agents used are generally acylated derivatives of mono- or di-carboxylic diamino-acids present, when appropriate, in their cyclic form.

The use of surfactants of this type in liquid form is not easy because the composition is difficult to localize on the hair as it quickly flows towards the ends.

Furthermore, it has been found difficult to thicken compositions based on these surface-active agents with traditional thickeners such as cellulose derivatives, crosslinked acrylic acid polymers, guar gum derivatives, or polyethylene glycol esters, either because the solutions are unstable on storage, or because the addition of a thickener degrades the cosmetic properties on application to the hair and/or the good compatibility with greasy hair.

We have now found that, surprisingly, the use of water-soluble heteropolysaccharides made it possible to thicken compositions based on the particular surfactants referred to above without losing the advantages of these surfactants. In addition, it has been found, in particular, that there is a clear improvement in the foaming properties, particularly as regards the comfort and the softness of the foam, a surprising improvement in detergency and an improvement in the cosmetic properties, particularly as regards the disentangling and the softness of wet and dried hair.

These compositions are, furthermore, readily removed by rinsing with water.

The present invention accordingly provides cosmetic compositions intended particularly to be applied on hair, containing at least one nonionic, weakly anionic or amphoteric surfactant, such as defined above and at least one water-soluble heteropolysaccharide. These compositions desirably do not contain a strongly anionic surface-active agent nor an oxidizing agent.

Thus the cosmetic compositions according to the invention are essentially characterised in that they comprise, in a cosmetically acceptable medium:

a) at least one water-soluble, polyglycerolated, nonionic surface-active agent, preferably

A) a condensation product of a monoalcohol, an α -diol, an alkylphenol or an amide with glycidol or a 45 glycidol precursor,

B) a compound corresponding to the formula:

$R_2O\{C_2H_3O-(CH_2OH)\}_qH$

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in which $\rm R_2$ denotes an alkyl, alkenyl or alkylaryl radical and q is a statistical average value from 1 to 10, these compounds being described more particularly in French Patent 1,477,048, and

C) a compound corresponding to the formula:

in which R₃ denotes a straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic radical containing between 8 and 30 carbon atoms, and optionally one or more hydroxy groups, of natural or synthetic origin, r denotes an integral or decimal number from 1 to 5 and denotes the average degree of condensation, and 60 mixtures thereof in which the R₃ radicals can be different, such compounds being described more particularly in French Patent 2,328,763, or

b) a weakly anionic surface-active agent from the polyalkoxycarboxylate group, or

c) an amphoteric surface-active agent chosen from the acylated derivatives of mono- or dicarboxylic diamino acids, optionally in cyclic form, or

d) their mixtures, and at least one water-soluble heteropolysaccharide.

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The nonionic surface-active agents of group (A) above correspond, in particular, to the formula:

5 in which R₁ denotes an aliphatic, alicyclic or arylaliphatic radical, preferably containing 7 to 21 carbon atoms (and mixtures), the aliphatic chains being capable of incorporating ether, thioether or hydroxymethylene groups and in which p is from 1 to 10 inclusive. Such compounds are described particularly in French Patent 2.091.516.

Among the nonionic surfactants defined above, those preferred more particularly correspond to the formula:

R₁-CHOH-CH₂-O-(CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-O)₀H

in which R₁ denotes a mixture of alkyl radicals containing 9 to 12 carbon atoms and p has a statistical value of 3.5, or else R₁ denotes a C₁₀ alkyl radical and p has a statistical value of 2.5, or

 $R_2O[C_2H_3O-(CH_2OH)]_qH$

in which R_2 denotes the goup $C_{12}H_{25}$ and q has a statistical value of 4 to 5, or

R₃-CONH-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₂-CH₂-O-(CH₂CHOH-CH₂O)+H

where R_3 denotes a mixture of radicals derived from lauric, myristic, oleic and copra acids and r has a statistical value from 3 to 4.

The surface-active agents from the polyalkoxycarboxylate groups which are particularly preferred are polyglycolic ether carboxylic acids corresponding to the formula:

 $R_4-(OCH_2-CH_2)_0-OCH_2-COOH,$

30 or salts thereof, where the substituent R₄ corresponds to a straight chain containing from 6 to 18 carbon atoms and preferably from 12 to 18 carbon atoms and n is an integer from 5 to 25, preferably from 5 to 10.

Among the compounds belonging to this group, special mention can be made of the product sold at 90% strength of active material under the trade name "Akypo RLM 100" by Chem Y corresponding to the above formula, in which R denotes a mixture of alkyl radicals containing 12 to 14 carbon atoms and n is equal to 10; the product sold at 90% stength of active material under the trade name "Sandopan DTC Acide" by Sandoz, corresponding to the above formula, in which R denotes a group containing 13 carbon atoms and n is equal to 7, or salts of these compounds; the products sold under the trade name "Sandopan DTC linéaire gel" and "DTC linéaire acide", in which products R denotes a mixture of radicals containing from 12 to 15 carbon

"DTC linéaire acide", in which products R denotes a mixture of radicals containing from 12 to 15 carbon atoms and n is equal to 5; the product sold under the trade name "Sandopan KST", in which R denotes an alkyl radical containing 16 carbon toms and n is equal to 12.

The amphotoric surface active agents are suitably chosen from those described particularly in the CTFA

The amphoteric surface-active agents are suitably chosen from those described particularly in the CTFA dictionary, 3rd edition, 1982, and correspond to the following general formulae I and II.

The compounds of formula I correspond to the structure:

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$$R_5-CO-NH-CH_2CH_2-N \xrightarrow{CH_2CH_2R_8} (I)$$

50 in which R₅ denotes a straight chain or branched C₇-C₁₇ alkyl or alkenyl radical, an alkyl or alkenyl radical derived from a long-chain fatty acid such as that from copra or tallow, R₆ denotes an -OH, -OCH₂CH₂COONa or -OCH₂CH₂COOH group,

R₆ denotes an −OH, −OCH₂CH₂COONa or −OCH₂CH₂COOH group, R₇ denotes −CH₂− or −CH₂−CH−CH₂−,

A[⊕] denotes COO[⊕], M denotes hydrogen or an alkali metal, m denotes 1 or 2.

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The compounds of formula II have the structure:

10 in which R₈ denotes a C₇-C₁₇ alkyl radical or an alkyl radical derived from copra.

Among the amphoteric surface-active agents which are more particularly preferred, mention may be made of the compound corresponding to the formula:

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$$R_5-C-NH-CH_2CH_2-N$$

$$CH_2CH_2COONa$$

$$CH_2CH_2COONa$$

$$CH_2CH_2COONa$$
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in which R₅–C– denotes the acyl radical derived from copra; \parallel O

25 this compound is called "cocoamphocarboxypropionate" in the CTFA dictionary, 3rd edition, 1982, and sold by Miranol under the trade name Miranol C2M SF, and the corresponding acid form and the compound corresponding to the formula:

35 in which

denotes the acyl radical derived from copra, which corresponds to the trade name of "cocoamphocarboxy-glycinate" in the CTFA dictionary, 3rd edition, 1982, and sold by Miranol under the trade name Miranol C2M conc.

The heteropolysaccharides employed in accordance with the invention are usually synthesised by the 45 fermentation of sugars by microorganisms.

More particularly they may incorporate the xanthane gums produced by the bacteria Xanthomonas Campestri and the mutants or variants of the latter.

The xanthane gums generally have a viscosity of 600 to 1,650 cP for an aqueous composition containing 1% of xanthane gum (measured in a Brookfield type LVT viscometer at 60 rev/min) and have a molecular 50 weight of 1,000,000 to 50,000,000.

The xanthane gums usually comprise 3 different monosaccharides in their structure, these being mannose, glucose and glucuronic acid in salt form.

Such products are, more particularly: Keltrol marketed by Kelco, a 1% aqueous solution of which has a Brookfield LVT viscosity at 60 rev/minute of 1,200 to 1,600 cP, Kelzan S marketed by Kelco, a 1% aqueous 55 solution of which has a Brookfield LVT viscosity at 60 rev/minute of 850 cP, Rhodopol 23, 23U and 23C, marketed by Rhone-Poulenc, a 0.3% aqueous solution of which has a Brookfield LVT viscosity at 30 rev/minute of 450 ± 50 cP, Rhodigel 23, marketed by Rhone-Poulenc, Deuteron XG marketed by Schöner GmbH, the viscosity of a 1% aqueous solution of which is 1,200 cP, measured in a Brookfield LVT viscometer at 30 rev/minute, Actigum CX9, marketed by Ceca, with a viscosity of 1,200 cP, measured in a Brookfield LVT viscometer at 30 rev/minute on a 1% aqueous solution; Kelzan K9 C57, the viscosity of a 1% aqueous solution of which is 630 to 1,000 cP, measured in a Brookfield LVS viscometer at 60 rev/min, marketed by Kelco, Kelzan K8 B12, the Rotovisco RVI, MVI de Haacke viscosity at 25°C of which is 1,000 at 10 s⁻¹, marketed by Kelco and Kelzan K3 B130, marketed by Kelco.

The heteropolysaccharides may also be chosen from;

a) the biopolymer PS 87 produced by the bacteria Bacillus polymyxa which comprises in its structure

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The compositions according to the invention, containing a weakly anionic and/or amphoteric surface-

When employed for an anti-grease treatment, they may particularly contain the compounds described in 35 French Patents 2,000,882, 2,011,940 and 2,133,991, and more particularly S-carboxymethylcysteine, trans-thiolane-3,4-diol S,S-dioxide and oxathiazinone derivatives prepared according to French Patent No. 2,231,676 and more particularly the potassium salt of 6-methyl-1,2,3-oxathiazine-4-(3H)-one 2,2-dioxide. When employed as anti-dandruff agents, they may particularly contain zinc or sodium pyridinethiones,

bis-(2-pyridyl-1-oxide) disulphide, such as described in French Patent 2,308,624 and its addition products 40 with salts of alkaline earth metals such as, more particularly, the complex of 2,3-dithiopyridine 1,1-dioxide with magnesium sulphate and substituted or unsubstituted 1-hydroxy-2-pyridones such as described in French Patent 2,191,904 and, in particular, the monoethanolamine salt of 1-hydroxy-4-methyl-6-{2,4,4trimethylpentyl)-2-pyridone.

The present invention also provides a cosmetic treatment process essentially characterised in that the 45 composition defined above is applied to hair and, if necessary, the hair is rinsed after a few minutes' application. The treatment may consist of:

(a) washing the hair with the composition, followed by a rinse,

(b) an anti-grease or anti-dandruff treatment followed, if appropriate, by a rinse after a few minutes' application, or

(c) a hair-conditioning treatment with the composition according to the invention which is applied before or after dyeing, before or after bleaching, before or after permanent waving, before or after shampooing or between two stages of a shampoo, followed, if appropriate, by a rinse.

The application of these compositions may also be preceded or followed by treatments with lotions containing various components which are active in respect of hair, such as polymers.

The following Examples further illustrate the present invention.

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5			GB 2 164 658 A	5
	Example 1			
	The following composition is prepared:			
	Polyglycerolated fatty diglycolamide			
5	$R-CO-NH-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CH_2+O-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_3+CHOH-CH_2+CH_2+CH_2+CH_2+CH_2+CH_2+CH_2+CH_2+$		10 g	5
	R: mixture of radicals derived from C ₁₂ to			
	C ₁₈ natural fatty acids — Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name			
	of Rhodopol 23C by Rhone-Poulenc		1.0 g	
10	pH adjusted to 5 with lactic acid			10
	– Colorants, stabilizers, water	q.s.	100 g	
	This composition is employed as a shampoo for washing hair.			
16	Example 2			15
19	The following composition is prepared:			
	- Nonionic surfactant of formula		8.0 g	
20	R-CHOH-CH ₂ -O(CH ₂ -CHOH-CH ₂ -O) $\frac{1}{6}$ H R: mixture of C ₉ -C ₁₂ alkyl radicals		6.0 g	20
20	n denotes an average statistical value of			
	approximately 3.5			
	 Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name 		4 5 -	
	of Rhodopol 23U by Rhone-Poulenc		1.5 g	25
25	pH adjusted to 7 with hydrochloric acid - Water, colorants, stabilizers	a.s.	100 g	25
	This composition is employed as a shampoo for washing hair.	4		
	This composition is employed as a shampoo for washing name			
30	Example 3			30
	The following composition is prepared:			
	- Nonionic surfactant of formula:			
	RCHOH-CH₂O [CH₂-CHOH-CH₂O], H			
35	$R = C_{g} \cdot C_{12} \cdot alkyl$		10 g	35
	 n = 3.5 statistical value Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name 		iog	
	of Actigum CX9 by Ceca		1.0 g	
	- pH adjusted to 5 with hydrochloric acid			
40		q.s.	400	40
	– Water,	q.s.	100 g	
	This composition is employed as a shampoo for washing hair.			
45	Example 4			45
75	The following composition is prepared:			
	- Nonionic surfactant of formula			
	R-CHOH-CH₂O [CH₂-CHOH-CH₂O], H			
50	R is a mixture of C ₉ -C ₁₂ alkyl radicals			50
	n denotes an average statistical value of approximately 3.5		8.0 g	
	- Sorbitol monolaurate polyoxyethylenated with		0.0 g	
	20 moles of EO, sold by Atlas under the			
55	trade name Tween 20		5.0 g	55
	- Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name		0.5.0	
	Keltrol by Kelco – pH adjusted to 8 with triethanolamine		0.5 g	
	- ph adjusted to 8 with thethanolamine - Colorants, stabilizers	q.s.		
60		q.s.	100 g	60

This composition is employed as a shampoo for washing hair.

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	Example 9			
	The following composition is prepared:			
	- 38% strength AS amphoteric derivative sold under			
5	the trade name Miranol C2M conc. by Miranol		15.0 g AS	5
	 Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name of Keltrol by Kelco 		1.0 g AS	
	 pH adjusted to 4 with hydrochloric acid 		100	
10	- Colorants, stabilizers, water	q.s.	100 g	10
	This composition is in the form of a thickened liquid which is employed	l as a shamp	000.	
	Hair washed with this shampoo is shiny, soft to the touch and disentan	gles readily.	•	
	Example 10			
15	The following composition is prepared:			15
	- Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name			
	of Rhodopol 23U by Rhone-Poulnec		0.8 g	
20	 38% strength AS amphoteric derivative sold under the trade name Moranol C2M conc. by Moranol 		2.0 g AS	20
	 Potassium salt of 6-methyl-1,2,3-oxathiazin-4- 			
	(3H)-one 2,2-dioxide, sold by Hoechst under the trade name Acesulfam K		3.0 g	
	 pH adjusted to 7 with hydrochloric acid 		-	
25	 Stabilizers, perfumes, water 	q.s.	100 g	25
	This composition is employed as a rinsing composition or "rinse" for t	he treatmen	t of greasy hair.	
	Example 11			
30	The following composition is prepared:			30
	- Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name of			
	Rhodopol 23U by Rhone-Poulnec – 38% strength AS amphoteric derivative sold under		1.0 g	
35	the trade name Miranol C2M con. by Miranol		2.0 g	35
	- zinc pyridinethione sold by Olin		0.8 g	
	 pH adjusted to 6.7 with hydrochloric acid Stabilizers, perfumes, water 	q.s.	100 g	
			•	
40	This composition is employed as a rinsing composition or "rinse" for t	ine anti-dani	arun treatment.	40
	Example 12			
	The following composition is prepared:			
45	- Nonionic surfactant of formula:			45
	R-CHOH-CH ₂ -O-[CH ₂ -CHOH-CH ₂ -O] _p -H			
	where R is a decyl radical and p denotes an average statistical value of 2.5		0.5 g AS	
	 Condensate of epichlorohydrin with a condensate 			50
50	of adipic acid and diethylenetriamine, prepared according to Example 1a of French Patent No.			50
	2,252,840		0.5 g AS	
	 Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name of Rhodigel 23 by Rhone-Poulnec 		2.0 g AS	
55	mar a literate de la composição de la co		0.3 g AS	55
	 Colorants, stabilizers, perfume 	q.s.		
	 pH adjusted to 8 with hydrochloric acid Water 	q.s.	100 g	
		.i	iontion the bair is rises	א בת
60	This composition is applied to wet hair after a shampoo. After a few m with water.	iinutes appl	ication the hair is rinse	ed 60
	Willi Water.			

9			GB 2 104 008 A	3
1	Example 17			
	The following composition is prepared:			
	- Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name			
_	of Actigum CX 9 by Ceca		0.8 g	5
5	- Sodium salt of trideceth-7-carboxylic acid,		0.0 g	•
	of formula			
	CH ₃ (CH ₂) ₁₁ CH ₂ -(OCH ₂ CH ₂) ₆ OCH ₂ COONa			
	sold at 70% strength AS under the trade			
10	name of Sandopan DTC Linéaire Gel by Sandoz		1.0 g AS	10
	- Potassium salt of 6-methyl-1,2,3-oxathiazine-4-		•	
	(3H)one 2,2-dioxide, sold under the trade name			
	of Acesulfam K by Hoechst		0.5 g	
	 Colorants, stabilizers, perfume 	q.s.		
15	 pH adjusted to 4.5 with hydrochloric acid 			15
	– Water	q.s.	100 g	
	This composition is employed as a rinsing composition after a sham	apoo for the trea	atment of greasy hair.	
				20
20	Example 18	nared:		20
	An anti-dandruff after-shampoo of the following composition is pre	pareu.		
	- Heteropolysaccharide sold under the trade name			
	Kelzan K9 C 57 by Kelco		1.2 g	
25	- Sodium salt of trideceth-7-carboxylic acid,		•	25
	of formula			
	$CH_3+(CH_2)_{11}-CH_2-(O-CH_2CH_2)_6+OCH_2-COONa$			
	sold at 70% strength AS under the trade name			
	of Sandopan DTC Linéaire Gel by Sandoz		1.0 g AS	
30	- Monoethanolamine salt of 1-hydroxy-4-methyl-6-			30
	(2,4,4-trimethylpentyl)-2-pyridone, sold under		10000	
	the trade name Octopirox by Hoechst	9.6	1.0 g AS	
	 Colorants, stabilizers, perfumes pH adjusted to 7 with hydrochloric acid 	q.s.		
25	- Water	q.s.	100 g	35
35	- Water	4	• • • •	
	CLAIMS			
40	 A composition suitable for application to human hair which cor 	nprises, in a cos	metically acceptable	40
	medium, at least one			
	a) water-soluble polyglycerolated nonionic surface-agent, or			
	 b) weakly anionic polyalkoxycarboxylate surface-active agent, or c) amphoteric surface-active agent which is an acylated derivative of 	of a mono- or di	-carboxylic, optionally	
4.5	cyclic, diaminoacid, or	31 4 1110110-01 41	our now, may op a contact,	45
45	d) a mixture of two or more thereof, and at least one water-soluble	heteropolysacc	haride.	
	2 A composition according to Claim 1, in which the water-soluble	heteropolysac	charide is a xanthane	
	gum having a molecular weight of 1,000,000 to 50,000,000 or polyme	rs: biopolymer i	PS 87 produced by the	
	hacterium Racillus nolymyxa, which comprises glucose, galactose, m	nannose, fucose	and glucuronic acid in	l
50	its structure: hippolymers S88, produced by the strain Pseudomonas	ATCC 31554, S	130, produced by the	50
	strain Alcaligenes ATCC 31555, and S198, produced by the strain Alca	aligenes ATCC 3	11853, comprising	
	rhamnose, glucose, mannose and glucuronic acid in their molecules;	; biopolymer S1	39, produced by the	_
	strain Pseudomonas ATCC 31644 comprising rhamnose, glucose, ma	annose, galacto:	se and galacturonic aci	u
	in its molecules; and the exocellular biopolymer produced by the spe	cies of Dacteria	, yeasts, tullyi of algae	55
55	which are gram-positive or negative.	curface-active a	gent is:	99
	 A composition according to Claim 1 or 2 in which the nonionic: (A) a condensation product of a monoalcohol, an α-diol, an alkylph 	enol or an amid	e with alveidol or a	
		onor or an annu	5 17111 81751401 01 4	
	glycidol precursor, (B) a product corresponding to the formula:			
20	• • •			60
60	R ₂ O [C ₂ H ₃ O−(CH ₂ OH)] ₄ H			
	HZO E OZNIGO HONZONIMON			

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(C) a product corresponding to the formula:

$$R_3CONH-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-(CH_2CHOH-CH_2-O)$$
 , H

- 5 in which R₃ denotes a straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic radical containing 8 to 30 carbon atoms and optionally one or more hydroxyl groups, of natural or synthetic origin, r denotes an integral or decimal number from 1 to 5.
 - 4. A composition according to Claim 1 or 2 in which the nonionic surface agent is a product corresponding to the formula:

in which R₁ denotes an aliphatic, alicyclic or arylaliphatic radical containing 7 to 21 carbon atoms, the aliphatic chains optionally containing one or more ether, thioether or hydroxymethylene groups and p is from 1 to 10.

5. A composition according to claim 4 in which the nonionic surface-active agent is a product corresponding to the formula:

where R_1 denotes an alkyl radical containing 9 to 12 carbon atoms and p has a statistical value of approximately 3.5, or else R_1 denotes a decyl radical and p has a statistical value of 2.5.

6. A composition according to Claim 1 or 2 in which the nonionic surface agent is a product corresponding to the formula:

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$$R_2O + C_2H_3O - (CH_2OH) + H_3OH$$

in which R_2 denotes a $C_{12}H_{25}$ group and q has a statistical value of 4 to 5.

7. A composition according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the nonionic surface agent corresponds 30 to the formula:

where R_3 denotes a radical derived from lauric, myristic, oleic or copra acid and r has a statistical value from 35 $\,$ 3 to 4.

8. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims in which the polyalkoxycarboxylate is a carboxylic acid of a polyglycolic ether corresponding to the formula:

$$R_4-(OCH_2-CH_2)_n-OCH_2-COOH$$

40 or a salt thereof, where R_4 is a straight chain radical containing from 6 to 18 carbon atoms and n is an integer from 5 to 25.

9. A composition according to Claim 8 in which R₄ is an alkyl group containing 12 to 18 carbon atoms and n is an integer from 5 to 10.

45 10. A composition according to Claim 9 in which the weakly anionic surface-active agent is a product corresponding to the formula:

50 in which:

a) R4 denotes a mixture of alkyl radicals containing 12 to 14 carbon atoms and n is equal to 10;

b) R_4 denotes a group containing 13 carbon atoms and n is equal to 7; or c) R_4 denotes a mixture of alkyl radicals containing from 12 to 15 carbon atoms and n is equal to 5; or

d) R₄ denotes an alkyl radical containing 16 carbon atoms and n is equal to 12.

55 11. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims in which the amphoteric surfactant corresponds to the formula:



in which R₅ denotes a C₇-C₁₇ straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkenyl radical, or an alkyl or alkenyl radical derived from a long-chain fatty acid,

R₆ denotes an OH, OCH₂CH₂COONa or OCH₂CH₂COOH group;

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A[©] denotes a COO[©] group M denotes H or an alkali metal;

10 m denotes 1 or 2

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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH} \\ \\ \text{R}_8-\text{CO-NH-CH}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{N-CH}_2\text{COO}^{\odot} \\ \\ \text{CH}_2\text{COONa} \end{array} \tag{II)}$$

20 in which R₈ denotes an alkyl group containing 7 to 17 carbon atoms or an alkyl group derived from copra.

12. A composition according to Claim 11 in which in formula I the alkyl radical derived from a long-chain fatty acid is a radical derived from copra or tallow.

13. A composition according to Claim 11 or 12, in which the amphoteric surface-active agent is a compound of formula:

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$$R_5$$
-C-NH-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂COONa
$$R_5$$
-C-NH-CH₂CH₂-N
$$R_5$$
-C-NH-CH₂CH₂CH₂COONa

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in which R_5 -C 35 \parallel 0

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denotes the acyl radical derived from copra.

14. A composition according to Claim 11 in which the amphoteric surface-active agent corresponds to the formula:

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$$\begin{array}{c} R_8-C-NH-CH_2CH_2-^{\oplus}N & \overbrace{\qquad CH_2CH_2OH \\ CH_2COON \\ O \\ \text{in which } R_8-C \end{array}$$

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denotes the acyl radical derived from copra.

50 15. A composition according to any one of Claims 2 to 14 in which the xanthane gum has a viscosity of 600 to 1,650 cP for an aqueous composition containing 1% of xanthane gum, measured in a Brookfield type LVT viscometer at 60 rev/min.

- 16. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims in which the surface-active agent is present in a proportion of 0.5 to 30% by weight.
- 55 17. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 in which the heteropolysaccharide is present in 55 a proportion of 0.1 to 2.5% by weight.
 - 18. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 17 which has a pH of 3 to 9.
 - 19. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 18 in which the cosmetically acceptable medium is water or a water-alcohol mixture.
- 60 20. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 19 which contains at least one perfume, preserving agent, sequestering agent, cationic surface-active agent, cationic polymer or electrolyte, with the exception of an anionic polymer when the composition contains a cationic polymer and with the exception of oxidizing agents and strongly anionic surfactants.
- 21. A composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 20 which contains an anti-grease or anti-dandruff 65 agent.

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22. A composition according to Claim 1 substantially as described in any one of the Examples. .

23. A process for treating the hair which comprises applying thereto at least one composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 22.

24. A process for washing the hair which comprises applying thereto at least one composition as claimed 5 in any one of Claims 1 to 22 and then rinsing the hair.

25. An anti-grease or anti-dandruff hair treatment process which comprises applying to the hair at least one composition as claimed in Claim 21 and optionally rinsing the hair after a few minutes' application.

26. A hair conditioning process which comprises applying to the hair at least one composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 22, before or after permanent waving, before or after shampooing or between two 10 stages of a shampoo.

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